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REICH UNITS INTERCEPT SOVIETS BEYOND BADEN

Konev's Breakthrough in Loslau-Jaegerndorf Area Again Balked—Breslau Still Holds

Domei

BERLIN, April 4.—German defense units intercepted Tolbukhin's forces, which had advanced beyond Baden, in fierce fighting in the plain just south of Vienna even as the German salient in central Slovakia jutting out to the east began to withdraw without any Soviet pressure, but in view of the advance of two Soviet columns toward Vienna and Bratislava.

Not quite as fierce was the fighting between Neusiedler Lake and the Danube as well as at Bratislava. In both areas the Soviets gained ground but after slight initial successes, they were checked by German sorties carried out from their defense positions.

In the little Carpathians and both banks of the River Waag, the Soviets were able to press back the German lines at some points, but in upper Silesia the fighting continued with unabated grimness. In general, however, Konev's troops are beating time. Their breakthrough attempts between Loslan and Jaegerndorf again collapsed during the past 24 hours.

The burning fortress of Breslau still continued to withstand strong mass attacks. The western periphery of the fortress was broken by the Soviets at some places, but all such breaches were sealed off after hard fighting.

While the entire front from Lausitz Neisse up to Stettin remained quiet fighting continued with undiminished ferocity for the remaining German positions in Danzig bight. Fighting in Courland was also intensified.

Along the quiet Oder front, however, the Soviet armies appear to be marking time, but apparently ready to launch their big offensive at a moment's notice. In the meantime, the German defense is growing stronger.

Moscow Claims Bratislava

Domei

ZURICH, April 4.—Marshal Josef Stalin in an order of the day today announced the capture of Bratislava, Slovakian capital, by Marshal R. Malinovsky's 2nd Ukrainian army.

Meanwhile, Marshal Alexander Tolbukhin's tank forces are apparently closing in on Vienna. Frontline reports said that the focal point of fighting lay south of the city with Red tank units which took Baden, 20 kilometers south of Vienna, having sent spearheads across the criss-crossing tributaries of the Danube and having reached today a point eight kilometers from Vienna.

Marshal Malinovsky's panzers pushing through the district north of Lake Neusiedler today reportedly reached the east bank of the Danube to increase their threat on Vienna from the southeast.

The Germans, in the meantime, apparently intend to hold the Austrian capital at all cost together with the forces which withdrew from Bratislava. A Reuter report predicted that the battle for Vienna would be a repetition of the street fighting for Budapest.

Anglo-Americans Bomb Kiel

Domei

BERLIN, April 4.—The city of Kiel was the focal target of day raids by Anglo-American bomber attacks yesterday. Other enemy formations also bombed localities in northern and central Germany. From Tuesday to Wednesday British fighter-bombers twice raided the German capital scattering bombs in various sections of the city.

ADOPT HIGH-HANDED POLICY

Anti-Axis Forces Enforce More Restrictions on 'Freed' Italians

Domei

STOCKHOLM, April 3.—With the intensification of the high-handed attitude adopted by the anti-Axis forces in Italy toward the Italian people, the citizens of Rome now miss the German troops who had withdrawn, according to a Rome dispatch to a certain commercial newspaper in Goteborg.

The report stated that the German forces left fine impressions in southern Italy because they did not interfere in Italy's domestic administration. Contrary to this attitude, the anti-Axis forces have confiscated buildings and promulgated various occupation army regulations. All of their actions, the dispatch said, are contrary to the Italian people's wishes. The anti-Axis Powers have taken off the mask of "friendly countries" and begun to betray the nature of conquerors.

Germans Evacuate One Million People From East War Zones

Domei

BERLIN, April 4.—More than 1,000,000 people have been evacuated from East and West Prussia and Pomerania since the middle part of January by vessels of the German navy and merchant fleet, it was announced here today. The route taken by the vessels was infested by enemy mines and submarines and constantly threatened by enemy aircraft, the announcement added.

REICH DEFENSE STIFFENS THROUGHOUT WEST FRONT

Anti-Axis Forces However Press Beyond Herford Into Bad Oeynhausen

Domei

BERLIN, April 4.—Enemy forces scored gains especially in the northern and central parts of the Western Front yesterday—one column from the Bielefeld area pressed beyond Herford into Bad Oeynhausen while to the south the American 3rd army by-passed stubbornly-defended Eisenach and Meiningen and reached the area of Gotha and Suhl—but no surprises have taken place during the past 24 hours, the German military spokesman declared today, German opposition has increased on nearly all fronts, he said.

Particularly noteworthy in yesterday's fighting was the determined resistance offered by the Germans in the encircled Ruhr district and in the Sauerland to the south of it. The Germans staged strong counterattacks to burst the ring around the Ruhr and enemy attempts to destroy the powerful German hedgehog positions in the rear of his tanks were unsuccessful.

German attacks carried out by several divisions were launched especially in the Hamm and upper Lippe area to gain more breathing space toward the east. According to the German spokesman fierce fighting developed there and also in other parts of the Ruhr district.

Heaviest fighting took place, however, against General Patton's 3rd army forces between the Fulda and Werra. While the left wing still fought for the Werra river crossings southeast of Kassel, the right wing broke into Thuringia and by-passing Eisenach and Meiningen reached the area of Gotha and Suhl. Some spearheads were reported fighting near Arnstadt.

To the north, German troops in the Arnheim sector withdrew from their advanced positions to the northern bank of the Waal River in the face of strong British pressure. Heavy fighting was reported in the area between Hengelo and the northwestern outskirts of Teutoburg forest.

In the same area street-fighting raged inside Rheine and Osnabruck and enemy spearheads were reported pushing on beyond Herford into Bad Oeynhausen while the garrison at Meunster still offered resistance. A total of 54 enemy tanks were knocked out yesterday in the northern front.

Down at the other end of the front, the right wing of General Patton's 3rd army group attacking toward the southeast in the Jagst and Neckar section slackened its pressure during the past 24 hours.

MORE STRIKES HIT BRITAIN

40,000 Aircraft Workers Walk Out; Coal Shortage Critical

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—A series of walkouts has developed in Britain's war industries, according to a London dispatch. The largest of these, the report said, will be the two-day strike of 30,000 aircraft workers scheduled to start tomorrow. Three other aircraft plants in northwest England are tied up by a strike of 10,000 workers who are seeking larger pays and bonuses.

This report was released simultaneously with a warning by Arthur Horner that the "coal crisis in Britain is greater now than at any time since the war." Horner made this statement in his presidential address to the annual conference of the South Wales branch of the National Mine Workers Union.

"In the past we have been able to depend on our reserves of coal in stock, but the fall in production, increased demands and needs of the occupied countries have so reduced the stocks as to leave us in considerable difficulties," he said.

S.F. ASSEMBLY TO STUDY SOVIET'S 3-VOTE DEMAND

Fate of Moscow Bid Doubtful As U.S. Now Seeking Only Single Vote

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—The fate of the Soviet Union's bid for three votes in the general assembly of the proposed league still remains in doubt following the U.S. State Department disclosure that the United States will seek only one vote while supporting the Soviet request, according to a Washington dispatch.

It is believed that this question will be laid apparently before the assembly commission at San Francisco. This commission is one of the four to be created when the temporary organization is formed under the direction of the four sponsoring nations, the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and Chungking.

Other commissions will deal with the creation of a proposed security council of 11 member nations, with a court of international justice and with general principles to be enunciated by the conference. Assignment of the American delegates to two commissions each may place Connally as a member of the security council and court groups and Senator Vandenberg as a member of the assembly and security council commissions.

It is also anticipated that the Soviet's appeal for assembly seats for the White Russian and Ukrainian Republics, as well as Moscow may ze tested in the formative stages of the conference. Indications are that the four sponsoring nations will fix the voting rules for the temporary organization of the meeting.

Chungking Studying Question

The Chungking Government is studying the question of the three votes for the Soviet Union at the San Francisco World Security Conference, but no consultations have yet taken place with Moscow or Washington on the subject, Dr. Wang Shie-chieh, Minister of Information, said today, according to a Chungking dispatch.

Not Postponing Meeting

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—The spokesman of the U.S. State Department declared today that the United Nations Conference on International Organization will be opened in San Francisco on April 25 as originally scheduled, according to a San Francisco report.

The spokesman, who is a special assistant to the director of the State Department's Office of Public Affairs, stated "that there is absolutely nothing to the rumors that the conference will be postponed. He made that statement in San Francisco where he is now outlining the arrangements for that conference.

Meanwhile, United States diplomats are working at top speed to avoid a showdown over the Soviet Union concerning Polish participation at the conference. High officials in Washington are hoping that the Polish National Unity Government in Warsaw as agreed upon at Yalta in February, still may be set up in time to prevent a controversy. Some circles said that if the matter is not settled within the next few days, there is a possibility that the opening of the conference may be delayed two or three weeks.

Washington congressional members as well as the press are commenting on the San Francisco conference.

Representative Sol Bloom, New York Democrat, and Senator Walter Connally, Texas Democrat, are calling for a showdown to mend the differences among the "Big Three" nations. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President, also is commenting on the situation. Governor Thomas Dewey of New York declared that the San Francisco conference will give the world an opportunity to create an organization worth while.

The New York Times correspondent says that the Polish question has caused a split with the Soviet Union while the New York Herald Tribune correspondent in Washington states that the Soviets may ask for more votes.

In England, the newspapers are undecided. Concerning the postponement for instance, one group says the conference may be postponed and another says it will not.

As for the Soviets, they have been criticizing what they call the isolationists in the United States objecting to the Soviet Union's participation at the conference and they declare that some are attempting to sabotage the San Francisco conference.

Exploits of Azuma, Ikeda, Kuromiya Units Brought to Attention of His Majesty

The great exploits of the Azuma Anti-Aircraft Gun Unit and the Ikeda and Kuromiya Units, which were previously cited for distinguished services in the Yiojima and Luzon operations, have now been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor, it was announced by the War Ministry on Thursday.

The announcement follows:

"Those who previously had been cited for rendering meritorious military services in operations on Yiojima and Luzon islands and whose accomplishments have now been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor follow:

"The Azuma Anti-Aircraft Gun Unit commanded by Major Shotaro Azuma.

"Under the able command of Major Azuma, the Unit shot down or damaged 10-odd enemy planes following the invasion of Yiojima. On February 28, the Unit, in cooperation with other ground units, firmly defended the first firing line in the north, inflicting big losses on the enemy.

"The Unit held its position firmly thereby facilitating the whole operations of the Japanese Forces up to March 8 when all its guns were destroyed and all its men including the commander were killed in gallant action.

"The Ikeda Unit attached to the Naval Forces.

"Commanded by Colonel Masuo Ikeda, the Unit which was assigned to defend the area in the vicinity of the North Village on Yiojima, fought valiantly for half a month from the early part of March despite the fact that its strength was numerically inferior to that of the enemy. Though casualties were mounting, the Unit inflicted big losses on the enemy thereby contributing greatly to the Japanese operations.

"The Kuromiya Unit

"Defending the area in front of Antipolo, a vital point east of Manila, the Unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Kuromiya counterattacked the enemy armored corps on and after February 23 and inflicted big losses on the invaders in shock attacks. As a result, the enemy was forced to throw a large force of troops into the battle. Holding its position to the last the Unit frustrated the enemy's breakthrough attempts for more than 20 days."

HALIFAX EXPLAINS STAND OF DOMINIONS ON VOTING

Resent Implications Their Votes Tied to British Empire's in Proposed Assembly

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—British Ambassador to the United States Lord Halifax told the press today that the Dominions strongly resented any implications that their votes are tied to the United Kingdom thereby assuring the British Empire six votes in the proposed assembly of the United Nations International Organization, according to a Washington report.

Eden Plans 'Big 3' Talks

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 4.—The British Foreign Office is now working on a plan for another "Big Three" meeting before the San Francisco conference in order to iron out some difficulties which have arisen since the Crimea Conference, a United Press report from London revealed today.

The report said that at the moment, it seems improbable that the "Big Three" will be able to meet but it is likely that the foreign secretaries of Britain, the United States and Soviet Union will confer. It added that their discussion will be to find some solution of the Polish question.

Canada's Participation

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—The London Times' Ottawa correspondent reports on March 24 as follows:

The views on Canada's participation in the San Francisco Conference expressed in the House of Commons continue to give emphasis to two main factors which the Canadians regard as essential to a successful security organization. The first is that collaboration between the great Powers must be maintained if peace is to endure and the other is that the secondary Powers should have direct influence on the decisions which may oblige them to assume specific military, economic or diplomatic responsibilities.

Conservative opinion urges that the Canadian policy at San Francisco should not weaken the country's links with the British Commonwealth and although less emphasis is given to this point of view by the Liberal spokesman, it is not inconsistent with either the Liberals or the government policy. That policy does not seek to disturb the existing affiliations within the Commonwealth or the United States but aims at extending such relations into yet wider fields. There is awareness among all parties particularly to the solution of economic problems on a world-wide basis which is essential to world peace. Special importance is also placed on the functions proposed by the Economic Social Council in the General Security Organization.

Agree to U.S. Bid

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 4.—The Tass News Agency in an authorized statement today said that Britain and the Soviet Union have agreed to the proposal that the number of United States votes at the San Francisco conference be brought up to three, according to a Moscow report.

The statement furthermore added that the British and American delegations supported the proposal to invite the Ukrainian and White Russian Republics to take part in the conference as founders of the international organization.

PRE-SAN FRANCISCO MEET IS HELD BY DOMINIONS

Lord Cranborne Presides at London Talks; Procedure Main Discussion Topic

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—Representatives of Great Britain, the Dominions and India who are in London for the pre San Francisco meeting on world peace and security held their first gathering in London at noon today, according to a London dispatch.

Lord Cranborne, Dominions Secretary, presided and India was represented by Sir Firoz Khan Noon and Sir Krishna Machariar.

Today's proceedings were chiefly concerned with procedure, the report said, but during the next week or ten days a number of points which have arisen since the publication of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals for a world security organization will be discussed.

Spanish Paper Comments

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 3.—Unsurmountable differences which are separating the anti-Axis nations are already coming to the surface, says the syndicalist paper Pueblo in commenting on Moscow's relations with the Anglo-Saxon Powers and points out most expressively the aggravation of the political situation in the anti-Axis camp, according to a Madrid dispatch.

The paper stated that Moscow was dropping its mask and making decisions which are not lacking in distinctiveness. It failed to delegate Molotov to California and in his place sends only its Washington Ambassador, the paper declared. It demanded three votes and unlimited recognition of the Lublin Committee as the only Polish representation. The Spanish paper further said that Moscow's manipulation in Rumania and Bulgaria, and its influence on Tito were open provocations against the anti-Axis.

Cranborne is presiding over the London Dominions talks and Prime Minister Peter Fraser is leading the New Zealand delegation at the London Conference. Other members will be High Commissioner in London, Jordan in London and Minister Berendsen in Washington. Fraser and Berendsen are also going to San Francisco.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent in Capetown reports on March 24 that "as far as the war in Europe is concerned the end is at hand. I always look on the length of this war as its worst feature. Europe as our mother continent reduced to shambles is something one cannot contemplate with equanimity. The end of the war in Europe will mean that South Africa's war production would fall off at least half."

"We did not think that there would be any demand for the South African Sixth Armored Division and the Union's other military forces."

JAPANESE PLANES BLAST U.S. UNITS AT ZAMBOANGA

Damaged Enemy Regular Carrier Confirmed as Sunk Near Ishigakijima

Domei

PHILIPPINE BASE, April 4.—Japanese Air Units early on the morning of April 2, attacked enemy landing forces in the Zamboanga area in the western sector of Mindanao Island and set aflame one enemy plane on the ground and scored accurate hits on munition dumps.

Carrier Confirmed as Sunk

Domei

CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA, April 4.—One enemy regular aircraft carrier which was announced by the Imperial Headquarters on April 1, as damaged by the Kamikaze Special Attack Corps in the vicinity of Ishigakijima of the Ryukyu group was later found to have been sunk. Meanwhile, Japanese Air Units repeatedly attacked groups of enemy warships off the Ryukyu Islands yesterday and several of them are believed to have been sunk or damaged.

Taiwan Areas Raided

Domei

TAIHOKU, April 4.—Philippine-based enemy bombers and fighters numbering 15 raided various parts of Taiwan several times yesterday afternoon. Principally raiding military establishments and strafing city sections in the vicinity of Kagi and dropping bombs in one part of Karenko, the enemy fled to the south some time after 4 p.m.

Losses are being investigated.

Hongkong Again Attacked

Domei

HONGKONG, April 4.—With B-24's as their mainstay, 49 enemy bombers of the U.S. air force carried out raids from the morning of April 2 to about 11:40 a.m. on April 3 for the second time over the Hongkong area.

Some damage was caused to shipping by the enemy who fled after losing three planse.

GREAT DECISIVE BATTLE SEEN ON THE IRRAWADDY

Japanese Withdrawal From Mandalay Is Turning Point In Burma Fighting

With the withdrawal from Mandalay by the Imperial Forces on March 20 the turning point has been reached in the Burma war area, reports the Yomiuri-Hochi correspondent from the Burma front.

Looking at the strong American offensives in the Pacific area with envy, the British have begun propagandizing as if their objective in the Burma operations during this dry season has already been reached on the strength of their having penetrated into Mandalay. Admiral Louis Mountbatten not only has commended his men on the front lines but congratulatory wireless messages have been conveyed under the name of the British king to the anti-Axis forces in Southeast Asia.

The Japanese withdrawal from Mandalay, however, was just a matter of strategy in shortening the lines for more intensified fighting and the real battle is yet to come in the very near future in the Irrawaddy fighting.

In preparation the enemy has massed powerful tank units in and around Mandalay, Meiktila and to the rear of their positions in the latter place while the strength of the British forces with their mainstays made up of the British 2nd division and the 20th division of the British-Indian Army in Myothi and Undwin which will act in coordination with the southward advancing 19th division of the British-Indian Army cannot be overlooked.

Forestalling the enemy the men of the Imperial Forces have already captured a strategic point of traffic south of Myothi while Meiktila has been surrounded from the north, south and east and another unit has seized the enemy stronghold in the eastern sector of the hills near Meiktila.

With the shortening of the lines on the southern side of the Irrawaddy the center of fighting has shifted from the northern to the southern side. The enemy who had expected the decisive battles to be fought in the Mandalay area has been foiled with the scene of concentric fighting being moved to the plains lying behind Meiktila.

Although the enemy spearheads have already been marching toward this locality theirs is a modern strategy wholly dependent on trucks and accordingly the combat power is bound to decrease while on the other hand, the Japanese in shortening their lines have driven into the enemy ranks on both the eastern and western banks of the Irrawaddy. With the artillery attacks already opened in the Meiktila section, the strong Japanese postions stand every chance of success, taking the lead in the attacks in the great decisive battle of Irrawaddy.

Reich Papers Stress Japan's Successes Against Yank Fleet

Domei

BERLIN, April 4.—The staggering blows inflicted by the Japanese on the American fleet are being prominently displayed by the German press, and two leading German papers, the Voelkischer Beobachter and the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, stressed on their front pages the unbroken will to resist being shown by the Japanese.

TASK OF BOMBING JAPAN LEFT TO 21ST COMMAND

Potential of Force Withdrawn From Chengtu Will Be Used Against S. Regions

By Arrangement With the Asahi

SHONAN, April 3.—The recent withdrawal of the U.S. 20th Bomber Command from Chengtu reveals the fact that the task of attacking the Japanese mainland has been entrusted solely to the Mariana-based 21st Bomber Command while the air potential of the 20th Bomber Command will be concentrated on offensives against the Southern Regions.

The U.S. 20th Bomber Command which was mainly employed in bombing the Japanese mainland has been withdrawn from Chengtu, leaving some 150 aircraft at Calcutta. This reveals that the mission of attacking Japan Proper has been handed over to the 21st Bomber Command.

Some reasons which led to the withdrawal of the 20th Bomber Command from Chengtu can be easily enumerated. The enemy air force hopping off from Chengtu suffered heavy losses at the hands of Japanese Air-Control Units on its way to and from Japan. Due to the strengthening of the 21st Bomber Command the Command is now able to perform the task of bombing Japan Proper without the cooperation of the 20th Bomber Command.

Also, to cover the long distance between Japan and Chengtu, fuel consumption is double that required for the flight from the Marianas to Japan, and furthermore, ammunition and supplies flown over an extensive distance with great difficulties are apt to be blasted by Japanese Air Units. As America can produce only some 150 B-29's monthly, she cannot replenish any other air force but the one based at the Marianas. In order to maintain the airfield at Chengtu in condition to conduct several bombing attacks monthly against the Japanese mainland, a large personnel including ground crew, engineers, radio operators and sanitation corps must be stationed there. America also found it rather difficult for its airmen, whose quality had greatly deteriorated, to surpass numberless obstacles on the way to Japan from Chengtu. It is also apparent that conditions are far more favorable for the men manning B-29's to fly to Japan from the Marianas.

Because of the various aforementioned reasons, the enemy has stopped undertaking dangerous expeditions to Kyushu from the Chengtu area since his raid on January 6.

While the main role of bombing Japan Proper will be now played by the 21st Bomber Command, the 20th Bomber Command will undoubtedly concentrate its offensive against the Southern Regions with the aim of disrupting the commissary line between Japan Proper and the South and destroying such facilities as are being used in augmenting Japan's fighting strength including harbors, factories, and facilities for developing natural resources.

As preparatory to establishing air mastery over the China Continent and the Southern Regions as well, it can be easily presumed that the enemy will choose some place in the Central Philippines as a base for the 20th Bomber Command.

Vinson Succeeds Byrnes

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—Fred M. Vinson was confirmed by the U.S. Senate today as Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion succeeding James F. Byrnes, resigned, according to a Washington dispatch.

KOISO CABINET QUITS SEEKING EMERGENCE OF STRONG MINISTRY

Prime Minister Tenders Resignations of All Ministers To the Throne

The Koiso Cabinet resigned en bloc on Thursday, the Board of Information announced at 7 p.m. yesterday.

The announcement follows:

"Hoping for the formation of a more powerful Cabinet in view of the grave situation, the present Cabinet has decided to resign en bloc and Prime Minister General Koiso today tendered the resignations of all the Cabinet Ministers to the Throne."

His Majesty the Emperor summoned Marquis Koichi Kido, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, in audience and was pleased to question him as to who should be the successor of Prime Minister Koiso.

In order to consult Senior Statesmen on the grave issue, Marquis Kido invited them in a conference within the Imperial Palace at 6 p.m.

Admiral Keisuke Okada, Admiral Kantaro Suzuki, President of the Privy Council, and former Prime Ministers Koki Hirota, General Hideki Tojo, Baron Kiichiro Hiranuma, Prince Fumimaro Konoye and Baron Reijiro Wakatsuki sat together in the Imperial Palace to discuss the head of the new cabinet from 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Since the organization of the present Cabinet on July 22, last year, Prime Minister Koiso has devoted himself to the weighty task of managing State affairs in the face of the serious war situation. Confronted with the rapid intensification of the situation, the Prime Minister deemed it timely to have a new powerful Government prosecute the War of Greater East Asia and informed his Cabinet colleagues of his opinion in the course of an extraordinary Cabinet session held at 9 a.m. Thursday.

Having obtained the understanding of all Cabinet Ministers, the Prime Minister proceeded to the Imperial Palace at 10:30 a.m. while the Cabinet meeting was still in session and handed in the resignations to the Throne.

Audience Is Granted

An extraordinary Cabinet meeting was held at 9 a.m. on Thursday with Prime Minister General Kuniaki Koiso and all other Cabinet members attending.

Explanations were made by Agriculture and Commerce Minister Toshio Shimada on rice prices and by Finance Minister Juichi Tsushima on table salt prices.

Prime Minister Koiso at 10:30 a.m. the same day proceeded to the Imperial Palace and was received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor.

JAPANESE COUNTERDRIVE IS CONTINUED IN OKINAWA

Heavy counterattacking battle is continuously raging on the main Okinawa Island where Japanese Land and Air Forces are vigorously attacking the invaders.

Stubbornly moving forward, the U.S. troops further advanced to a line extending from the northern side of Oshiro, two kilometers south of Shimabukuro, to Ginowan, three kilometers south of Kitadani as well as to the area north of Oyama at noon of April 4.

A part of the enemy forces numbering about 200, with five tanks, attempted to infiltrate into Japanese positions in the hilly sector southeast of Oyama but were thrown back after losing all of their tanks.

At sea, powerful U.S. warships plying to the east and west of the main island are bombarding Japanese positions along the coast. However, the number of the enemy transports in the western sea area has decreased.

Dumbarton Oaks Week Set

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—President Roosevelt has expressed hope that the entire nation will observe Dumbarton Oaks Week from April 16 to 22, according to a Washington report. In a letter to the executive director of the American Association for the United Nations, Roosevelt said: "I was happy to learn that this association and 50 other cooperating organizations are urging that the week of April 16 be observed as Dumbarton Oaks Week. I hope that the whole country will observe this week and join in the success of the United Nations meeting."

RUHR'S FATE WILL DECIDE OUTCOME OF EUROPEAN WAR

Success Or Failure of Enemy in Isolating Vital Area Key to Victory in Hostilities

By YOSHIO MORIYAMA
By Arrangement With the Asahi

BERLIN, April 3.—Since the development of the fighting on the right bank of the Rhine into a quick-moving panzer battle, conflicting reports have been issued by the opposing forces and several days have been passed in great anxiety. The occupation by the United States forces of the broadcasting station of Frankfurt-on-Main and the spreading of unfounded propaganda particularly permeated Europe with the impression that the Reich was on the verge of collapse.

About March 28, the Reich press and radio, in order to seal any unrest that might be caused by the swift advance of the enemy panzers, strongly urged the people not to be ensnared by the nerve warfare trap set by the enemy. With April 1, being April Fool's Day and with lies being standard in a man's war, wild rumors were anticipated but contrary to expectations the propaganda war was quiet. The reports of the opposing forces grew closer on this day. Perhaps because of Easter, the Westerners' great spring holiday, the form of the front appeared clearly for the first time before the people's eyes. But it has appeared in an extremely serious form. The German crisis has not passed. Rather, it is held that it is approaching by the minute.

Firstly, the Anglo-Americans are continuing their bold forward drive aiming to annihilate the German Western forces, based on the fact that they continue to hold the initiative in the mobile attack action after having broken through the main German defenses on the right bank of the Rhine. Secondly, because, although the German countermeasures have scored local successes, no real-scale defense front has been established as yet. These two facts must be grasped clearly as the fundamental explanation of the present situation the Western front.

Critical 10 Days

In a few words, the Western Front is flowing at a faster rate than the waters of the Rhine. The enemy is flowing and the German side is flowing. The situation contains the elements of a truly serious crisis if it continues in this fluid condition for ten days with the initiative in enemy hands. The key is the state of the German forces in the Ruhr, the object of the enemy pincer operations. If fate is unkind to Germany here, the past six years of terrible hardships will have been in vain. Can that be allowed? All is not well on the Western Front, decidedly not. It is natural that all Germany is operating at red hot speed.

Meanwhile, the surging Red Army has crossed the border and driven into Austria, reportedly already reaching a point some 20 kilometers from Vienna. Danzig, fuse of the current war, has fallen. The fortress of Kuestrin, which lies before Berlin has also fallen into Soviet hands, and the situation is increasingly more favorable for the Red forces striking for Berlin. Adverse reports from both the West and East are piled mountain high. How will the Germans come through the crisis? It must be said that the high command of the German defense forces stands before its gravest mission since the outbreak of the war.

Open a map of Germany and you see by the Neckar River the famous university city of Heidelberg. Draw a straight line to Aschaffenburg on the Main and extend it straight upward for some 200 kilometers to Paderborn and draw an arrow pointing diagonally leftward. This long line extending southward almost along latitude nine degrees east is the track of the American tanks wreaking havoc on the front. Draw liaison lines to the region of Bonn to the east to Marburg via Siegen and three or four arrows pointing to Thuringen in central Germany from Marburg, Giessen and Hanau and it will make it further clear what the American intention is.

This outlines the sphere of action of the American first, third and seventh armies (the 15th army has also appeared in this zone since March 31) in the western and southern sectors.

On the northern front, the British second, Canadian first and American ninth armies hold the following zone. Draw a triangle having as its base the line from Hamborn on the northern edge of the Ruhr to Emmerich on the east bank of the Rhine near the Dutch border and having as its top a point southwest of the city of Munster. This points toward the Ribbe district, in coordination with the arrow of the American first army pointing northwestward from Paderborn. It is clear that it is the Anglo-American plan to join these two arrows and thus to effect a large encirclement of the Ruhr coalfields and industrial district.

Not only will victory on the western front be decided by the success or failure of the Anglo-Americans to isolate the Germans in the Ruhr and to destroy the fighting strength of the Germans, but in view of the present situation, it will be the key to the whole of the European War. It is true that the Americans may also be stressing the drive to Thuringen and Bayern in central Germany, but it may be passed over when compared with the importance of the coming situation in the Ruhr. It is therefore correct to say that the decisive battle on the Western Front will be in the Ruhr.

Valuable to Germany are the several hundred thousand skilled hands employed in the mining, heavy and chemical industries of the 13 cities in the Ruhr. But what Germany cannot afford to lose is the fighting power of the crack German divisions there. The German western forces are organized in two groups, one north and the other south, under a commander-in-chief (it is said that Marshal Gurt von Rundstedt was replaced recently by Marshal Albert Kesselring but no announcement has been made in this regard by the German authorities). The German forces of the north, fighting the main Anglo-American force on the lower Rhine, are formed by the best fighting men of Germany at present under the leadership of the veteran Field Marshal Walter Model. The Marshal is one of the foremost military leaders today and is a personage who led the thundering so-called revived offensive in the Luxemburg area last year.

How tremendous is the fighting spirit of this unit may be gathered from the fact that it withstood the vast material offensive of the enemy over the 60 kilometers from Aachen to Cologne for six months and literally crushed the Americans to a bloody pulp. The stubbornness of the German northern forces holding the Ruhr in comparison with the somewhat regrettable development of the southern front in the present offensive on the right bank of the Rhine showed a unique power. The enemy, repeating failure after failure, is unable to cross the Rhine on the front between Cologne and Duisburg held by the German Ruhr Army. Because of his failure to cross to this adjacent area south of the Ruhr, the enemy attempted to hit the Ruhr by expanding his Lemagen bridgehead northward but also failed in this attempt because of the defense by Marshal Model on the Sieg River. A direct attack was effected only by General Sir Bernard Montgomery's forces from the north, an attack which was accompanied by great losses.

Aim of Montgomery Drive

Thereupon the enemy designed the present encirclement operations against the Ruhr. Taking advantage of the comparative thinness of the German defenses on the central Rhine, the American first army penetrated the Wester forest to the east more than 100 kilometers and suddenly detoured to the east of the Rothaar mountains and hit the rear of the Ruhr from the line of Brion and Paderborn. The launching of an offensive by the main strength of Montgomery's forces toward Munster, rather than directly attacking the Ruhr, apparently is aimed at effecting a juncture with the American forces in the region of the Teutoburg forest. The withdrawal from the Atlantic coast and the withdrawal from the Siegfried Line have entailed no small sacrifice of fighting personnel for the Germans. With the important decisive battle lying hereafter, the Germans must prevent any extreme loss in men. The healthy existence of the main strength of the German northern forces who fill the Ruhr is therefore the pillar of the Western Front.

How will the Germans counter the situation? Since there can be no scheduled retreat from the Rhine, in view of the general situation, the total German effort in the west must be concentrated on the recovery of the Rhine line. A withdrawal to the rear for reorganization is permissible only as preparations for a drive to recover the line. Actually, the Germans should concentrate their central reserves, taking advantage of the fact that the enemy has plunged in so far, and launch a full-scale offensive defense. Preparations, probably, are going on for that.

The enemy also has a big weakness. The enemy has driven into a region 300 kilometers long on the east bank of the Rhine to a depth of 150 kilometers but the region held by the infantry is only 100 kilometers square having as its four corners the points of Bonn, Marburg, Frankfurt and Mainz. The American forces driving for Paderborn, Eisenach and Urtsburg are small units, each with only a few score tanks. The American unit which carried out a world-amazing stunt by appearing in the vicinity of Paderborn on March 30, was a part of the fourth tank division of the American first army. Its vanguard was made up of 60 Sherman tanks and a few infantrymen mounted on armored trucks. Even with little resistance, units must be left at strategic points as long as penetrations were being made in enemy territory, and vanguard units therefore will be worn thin.

But after 12 or 24 hours they are reinforced by following units. In the meantime, they can be wiped out by attacks by the people's storm. Such attacks are already being conducted. But the enemy is avoiding strong spots of resistance and speeding along the smaller highways. What is therefore necessary are strong counterthrusts by interceptive reserve forces.

The struggle at present is between the speed of the enemy supplies and reinforcements and the speed of the concentration of the German reserves. What is foremostly vexing for the Germans at this time of crisis is that the air over the battlefield is still controlled by the absolute superiority of the American air forces.

'Liberated' Countries of Europe Starve As Food Shortage Reaches Critical Point

Shortage of food is assuming such serious proportions in the "liberated" countries in Europe that street demonstrations are now not infrequent occurrences in principal cities in these countries, says an Asahi dispatch from Zurich dated April 3.

Anxious cries for foodstuffs are being heard from various parts throughout Europe, the dispatch said, and it is an ironical fact that the so-called "liberated" countries are the hardest hit by this social calamity. France, Holland, Greece and Belgium, for example, are virtually on the starvation line, the report said.

Regarding the food situation in France, a Reuter dispatch from Paris stated on March 21 that not a drop of oil has reached the Parisians' kitchens for the past three months and meat of any description could not be obtained during the last three weeks. The report further said that sugar was no longer available that week even to those possessing ration tickets. Paris citizens now fear that they will shortly fall short of bread, the Reuter dispatch stated, adding that in the seventh month since France had been "liberated," the country was confronted by the gravest food crisis since the beginning of the war.

This harassing food shortage forced 5,000 Paris dames to carry out street demonstrations on March 20 while on the same day, similar demonstrations were held also in Lyons, Grenoble and other principal cities. The situation is as bad in Belgium as in France while in the Netherlands, the food shortage is so critical that the Premier of the Dutch exile regime complained that the Netherlands had food only enough to last three months. The Premier is quoted to the effect that whereas a Briton took on the average from 2,600 to 3,000 calories a day, a Dutchman had only 700 calories.

Reports from various sources put the nutrition level at 3,000 calories for Britain and 1,500 for France and Belgium. In Italy and Norway, the situation is as bad as in France and the outlook is considered critical.

U.S. Food Stocks Thinning

That America's food stock is gradually diminishing is an undeniable fact. From a political point of view, the critical food situation in Europe has now become a fatal obstacle to the execution of Anglo-American policy for the present and postwar period.

How gravely the British Government is concerned over the situation was indicated by the most lively debates that took place in the House of Commons as well as by the statement by Laborite leader Arthur Greenwood on March 29 to the effect that unless Europe was immediately supplied with sufficient food, anti-Axis countries will be confronted by the gravest problem ever encountered in history—a problem unknown even at the time when Europe was attacked by Black Death. Greenwood further stated:

"A question which draws the attention of the people in this connection is why the United States suspended its supply of foodstuffs to Europe. The step was obviously against America's advantage. American and British fears that a "hungry" Europe will "go Red" has produced the illusory program of the American-made UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) but this program has failed as witnessed by the failure on the part of Britain and the United States to feed starved Europe.

"The United States authorities attribute the recent decline in America's food production to shortage of labor and to war industries. I believe, however, that shortage of bottoms forms the basic cause.

"While Britain is anxiously concerned solely over the grave food shortage and social unrest in West Europe, America's interest is concentrated on the purpose of winning the two wars by herself. This difference in America's and Britain's interests has been brought to the surface by the critical food situation in Europe. It is a foregone conclusion that food shortage in entire Europe including Germany will assume ever greater proportions in the future."

CHINA CONTINENT LANDING VITAL IN U.S. WAR PLAN

Aside From Military Reasons, Political Domination of Region's Populace Aimed At

The enemy's declaration that his present landing on the main Okinawa Island is in preparation for landings on the mainland of Japan and on the China continent, is the subject of comment by the Mainichi. The journal's comment is as follows:

"Since the enemy's landing on Iwojima, opinion has been growing among the Americans that a direct landing on Japan's mainland must precede that on the China continent. Has the enemy changed his mind about landing on the China continent?

"The first objective of America's Pacific war is to subjugate Japan, and the second is to monopolize the whole of East Asia with particular reference to China. The American landing plan for China has dual meaning. One, is military and the other, political. America is trying hard to secure advantageous positions to attack Japan from China. Also it is ambitious to place China under its political domination.

"The securing of the vast natural resources of China and the realization of her political domination over the Chinese populace may be said to be America's ultimate objective in the present war.

"America fears Japan and China. America does not like to see China grow in strength after the war and this is the reason why America is nurturing her proclivity to effect landings on the China continent on the ground that Chungking is cooperating with America in the war with Japan.

"All considered, America's plan of landing on the China continent is inevitable and, with this, a permanent stationing of American troops in China will be realized, if the landing is successful and its subsequent situation develops favorably."

LESS SUGAR FOR YANKEES

American Ration Is Lower Than That of British

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—Civilians in the United States will find 1945 the hardest year yet as far as the sugar shortage is concerned, according to a Washington dispatch.

Lieutenant Colonel R. W. Olmsted of the War Food Administration said that this year's supply will be seven per cent lower than the 1944 figure, and 14 per cent lower than the average civilian supply in 1935 to 1939. This means that each person will get even less than the quota per person scheduled for Britain this year, the report added.

It was also disclosed that no meat is being allocated or shipped by the United States to the "liberated countries" during the first half of 1945 primarily for fear of arousing the anger of the United States public.

3 Envoys See Stettinius

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—Chungking Ambassador to Washington Dr. Wei Tao-ming, British Ambassador Lord Halifax and Soviet Ambassador Andrei Gromyko all conferred with Edward Stettinius, U.S. Secretary of State, for one hour yesterday on the organization and procedure plans for the San Francisco conference, it was reported from Washington. Wei stated that the Chungking and Soviet diplomats have abandoned the policy of meeting other diplomats separately.

Smuts Has Narrow Escape

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—General Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, it was revealed today, had a narrow escape from death when his plane was struck by lightning while flying from Pretoria to Kisuma on the first stage of his journey to London, according to a London dispatch. Smuts' private pilot said that while flying through a thick cloud on Saturday night a flash of lightning struck the plane putting the plane out of communication for four hours.

Prices in Chungking Soar to Dizzy Heights As Inflation Worsens; Speculation Is Rife

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 4.—Inflation in Chungking during the last few weeks has taken a sensational turn, according to a Chungking dispatch. During the past two months the price of rice has risen from 75 to 115 Chinese dollars a pound, matches from 15 to 25 Chinese dollars a box, and shoes from 6,000 to 10,000 Chinese dollars a pair. Pork has risen from 120 to 400 Chinese dollars a pound.

Behind this inflationary scene, continues the report, lies a mass speculation in gold. The official selling price per ounce of this precious metal was recently hoisted from 20,000 to 35,000 Chinese dollars per ounce. Speculators who bought at the original price have made a small fortune. Meantime, it is expected that the price of gold will go still higher.

The result of this lust for speculative profit is an unhappy paradox, states the report. In the midst of such suffering, cotton cloth dresses are selling at thousands of dollars and prices are skyrocketing in every direction. Chungking has become the city of plenty—but only for those who have the money to pay for it. For the common people the situation is tragedy; for black market racketeers it means staggering profits, and to the outside world the situation is simply fantastic.

STUDY OF PLANT LIFE UNDERWATER REVIEWED

Science of Limnology Aids Fishery and Irrigation Enterprises, Says Thieneman

There is an essential difference in the economic exploitation of the fruits of the earth and those of the water, says August Thieneman, who for many years was the director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Hydrobiology in Plon and holds the first German professorship for hydrobiology at the University of Kiel. Many of the green plants growing on land are used directly for human consumption, and are consequently grown by man. On the other hand, true water plants are—with a few exceptions in the tropics—not used at all directly for human consumption.

But when we remember the cultivation of rice, we begin to look at these circumstances with other eyes. It is true that the rice has its roots in the earth of the rice fields and draws from it nutritive substances which, after the harvest, are partially replaced by artificial fertilizers. But the irrigation water also provides convertible plant food; the quality and quantity of these latter nutritive substances depend on the chemism of the water. The irrigation of the rice fields is an entirely artificial one; and in order to have sufficient water at all times of the year, especially in Southern Regions, natural lakes are often used as storage places or artificial lakes created by means of dams. The surface water of these lakes is carried to the rice fields by means of canals and ditch systems often extending many kilometers in length.

Wealth Lower Down

This surface water, however, is already largely deprived of its content in nutritive substances by the organisms living in it; it contains only traces of dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus compounds. On the other hand, a German limnological expedition to the Sunda Isles discovered that the water at the bottom of such lakes, the hypolimnion, (from the Greek hypo—below) contains a vast reserve of these substances. Thus every cubic meter of water from the hypolimnion of the small Lake of Ranu Lamongan in eastern Java contains an average of 0.35 grams of phosphorus and 3.1 grams of ammonic nitrogen. A total amount of 1,430 kilograms of phosphorus and 12,170 kilograms of ammonic nitrogen are dissolved in the water more than 8 meters below the surface of this tiny lake (750 meters diameter; 28 meters maximum depth). In the case of large lakes, these figures take on gigantic proportions. There can hardly be any great technical difficulties in obtaining the valuable water from the depths of these lakes for the rice fields instead of the poor surface water. The technical exploitation of this one secondary result of a limnological expedition would be enough to repay the cost of the expedition several times over.

Indirectly the vegetative substances of the fresh waters form the basis for all animal production of the waters, including fishing and fish breeding. But here again it must be emphasized that there is an essential difference between cattle raising on land and fish breeding in the water. All animals used in one way or another by man convert vegetable substances (grass, leaves, etc.) directly into meat. It is, however, a great exception for fish to feed directly off plants; the chain leading from original plant food to the fish contains many links, including as it does low forms of animal life on which the fish feeds. Hence an exact knowledge of the metabolism in fresh waters is of great importance to fishing interests. The many-linked feeding chain also explains the difficulty in finding scientifically correct methods of fertilizing fish ponds. Other water animals, such as crabs, mollusks, turtles, and amphibians, are eaten by man, especially in the tropics, or exploited in other ways; the same applies to them as has been said about fish.

The total production of fresh-water fishing is usually underestimated. In Germany the annual income of fresh-water fishing according to the last prewar figures amounted to 150 million marks, that of coastal and deep-sea fishing to 80 million marks. If, as a rule, the production of salt-water fishing seems larger, this is to be explained by the fact that inland lakes, ponds, and rivers are distributed over countless localities and that their products are usually consumed locally without previously being concentrated at a few centers, as is the case with sea products in most countries.

As for the "inorganic" production of inland waters, we shall only touch upon them very briefly here: they consist in the main of lake chalk and lime, lake ores, gravel and sand, travertine, medicinal mud, etc. Just a few figures to show that these products amount to considerable quantities too: in the Lake of Zurich an annual quantity of 1 million tons of gravel and sand are dredged, and in Lake Constance some 300,000 to 400,000 tons. Calculated at a price of 3 marks per ton, this would represent an annual turnover of 1 to 2 million marks in the case of Lake Constance alone.

Much as the various items mentioned here under the heading of "production" of fresh-water bodies may differ from each other, one thing holds good for fresh-water production of any kind; a deeper understanding of it and the possibility of its economic development can be achieved only on the basis of theoretical limnological studies. Wherever inland waters are exploited or wherever they tend to obstruct human endeavors, the results of limnology gain practical importance.

This is especially true of the role played by inland waters in the hygiene of man and beast. It is a recognized fact in the advanced countries of Europe and North America today that in all matters affecting the obtaining of drinking water and the hygiene of waterworks a limnologist should be consulted (although in actual fact this is not always done). In questions regarding the contamination of water and the removal of waste water the limnologist gives his advice on the basis of a biological analysis of the water; indeed waste-water biology is, next to fishery biology, one of the oldest branches of applied limnology. There are close relations between limnology and the struggle carried on against human and animal diseases in all those places where disease carriers either live in fresh water or use fresh-water animals as intermediary hosts. In many cases, measures of combat must set in at the stage at which the carrier lives in the water, so that intensive limnological work becomes necessary.

Limnology vs. Diseases

Take the case of fasciolose, a cattle disease caused by liver flukes (Fasciola hepatica L.), which are transmitted by a certain kind of snail. In 1925, in Bavaria alone at least 60,000 sheep, 18,000 head of cattle, and 3,000 goats fell victim to the liver fluke. In other regions, for instance, in the North Caucasus, where sheep raising is of primary importance the damage done by liver flukes is considerably greater.

As regards malaria, we need only point out that part of its combat which is directed against its transmitter, the Anopheles, is now based entirely on a hydro-biological-limnological foundation. As a result, malaria has lost its importance in large areas formerly entirely infected.

(To Be Continued)

Strategy to Lure Anglo-American Forces Into Trap Hinted by German Spokesman

Special to the Nippon Times

BERLIN, April 3.—The spokesman of the German Propaganda Ministry today hinted before the foreign press conference that "perhaps it was the intention of the Germans to tempt the enemy into overreaching himself."

He declared that the Anglo-Americans are trying to propagate the belief that the present phase of the war was its final one. "The enemy is playing all his cards and wishes the Germans to do the same," he said, adding "that would probably not be the case, however, and he would thus be forced to continue to play out his cards."

The spokesman expressed firm conviction that at any rate the fighting would continue no matter how, where and under what circumstances.

Wilhelmstrasse Refutes Report

The spokesman of the Wilhelmstrasse, at his foreign press conference, refuted the Reuter report published by the Diario de Lisboa, alleging that the German Foreign Office is now at Constance. The spokesman, addressing the foreign newspapermen, declared, "You are free at any time to convince yourselves that the Foreign Office as well as the Reich Government are in Berlin and will remain here."

People's Participation Played Up

The German press is playing up the reports on the participation of the German population in the fighting in the west. Banner headlines, such as "Fanatical Resistance by the People" and "Hatred and Grim Enmity Meet Invaders," cover the whole breadth of the front pages.

Likewise, the appeal made by the head of the Party Chancellery, Bormann, to fight to the last breath is being played up. The Voelkischer Beobachter writes, "The enemy must feel that he is living on a volcano and that he on no condition can rely on the few traitors."

"There is not a single means which is not permitted and the interests of the German people take precedence over all other interests," this paper declares.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

April 4

In the southern sector of the Eastern Front, enemy pressure is continuing between the Drave and the upper Raab South of Vienna our troops intercepted in bitter fighting the Soviets advancing via Baden and destroyed numerous tanks. Between Lake Neusiedler and the Danube as well as at the defense ring of Pressburg, major enemy attacks after initial gains of ground were checked. In the minor Carpathians and on both sides of the Waag, the Soviets pushed back our lines but were warded off in a general attack.

In Upper Silesia, our divisions frustrated renewed enemy breakthrough attempts between Loslau and Jaegerndorf. The enemy continued his attacks against the Breslau fortress with strong forces, and the Soviets who had broken into the west front of the town were repelled after heavy fighting.

At the western coast of Danzig Bay, our troops are engaged in bitter fighting against incessant strong enemy attacks in the Oxhoefter Kempe and in the lower Vistula depression while northwest of Dobeln repeated Soviet attacks failed.

In the west the British after heavy fighting pushed back our outposts at the Waal on both sides of Arnheim to the northern bank of the river. At Iyssel and in the area between Hengelo and the northwestern spurs of the Teutoburger forest, violent enemy attacks and our counterattacks are in progress. Panzer grenadiers pierced deeply into the enemy flank northwest of Burgensteinfurt and annihilated one tank group.

Fighting is going on in the streets of Rheine and Osnabrueck. Beyond Herford, tank spearheads are pressing on against Bad Oeynhausen whereas the Muenster garrison is continuing to offer strong resistance. In the northern sector of the Western Front 54 enemy tanks were destroyed yesterday. At the Sieg River, our formations warded numerous attacks and sealed off several local dents. Also the Americans attacking at the Rothaar Mountains made only negligible gains of ground.

In Thuringia our garrisons are defending Eisenach and Meiningen. By passing them enemy formations reached Gotha and Suhl and in the fighting in these areas the Americans lost 23 tanks. In the eastern Spessart also and at the Main on both sides of Wuerzburg our defense was consolidated while south of Ochsenfurt a minor enemy tank group was thrown back. West of Wimpfen on the Neckar, the enemy was forced to withdraw on account of attacks of our Alpine troops.

In the Rhine plain southwest of Bruchsal, enemy attacks were checked by our defense fire.

On the isthmus between the Adriatic and Lake Comacchio, positions of strong enemy attacks were taken back a few kilometers to the canal near Porto Garibaldi.

Yesterday, American bomber formations attacked towns in northern and central Germany causing particularly heavy damage in Kiel. During the night the area of Greater Berlin was the target of British bombers.

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'BIG FIVE' PARLEY PLANNED

To Discuss Mandated Countries; U.S., British Clash Seen

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—The United States Government has proposed a "Big Five" meeting to be held in Washington before the San Francisco conference opens, according to an exclusive report carried by the Associated Press from Washington today.

The purpose of the meeting, the AP said, is to work out an agreement on the mandated countries. The "Big Five" would be the United States, Britain, Soviet Union, France and Chungking.

According to the AP, the United States would like to see an international trusteeship over the mandated countries or territories and the trusteeship would be aimed at the ultimate development of self-government in the territories. It said that this idea may find itself firmly opposed by Britain and France for these two countries take the position that mandates should be brought closer to the imperial system.

The United States' plan is to have a trusteeship council as a part of the proposed United Nations' organization and the council would visit the territories and make periodic reports. The United States would also like to establish free trade, aviation and communication in the mandated territory and it is likely that she will run into British opposition again.

It said that the proposed meeting would be scheduled for two weeks.

U.S. TO ATTEND AIR MEET

Will Send Delegates to Aerial Transportation Confab at Havana

Domei

LISBON, April 2.—Relative to the first International Conference on Aerial Transportation to be held at Havana, Cuba, from April 16, the United States Chamber of Commerce, representing the 17 American air route firms and the 20 foreign organizations within the United States last night announced its acceptance in sending delegates to the forthcoming conference, according to a Washington dispatch.

The conference is for the advancement of international aerial transportation to benefit mankind and for the cooperation with various international civilian air organs to guarantee and maintain international aerial standards.

The participating countries at the conference which conduct aerial traffic with the United States include Britain, France, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Mexico, Cuba, Eire, Belgium, India, New Zealand and Czechoslovakia.

Hurley May Visit Moscow

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 4.—Major General Patrick Hurley, American Ambassador to Chungking, probably will visit Moscow on his way back to Chungking, a Washington report said today. Hurley has reached London on his return trip to his post after consultations in Washington. Officials said his talks were strictly on East Asia and not connected with any political difficulties among the anti-Axis centering on the San Francisco Conference.

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Hainan Island: Hoihow, Yulin, Kachek, Hokurei. **South Sea Islands:** Truk, Palau. **Philippine Islands:** Manila, Davao, Cebu, Baguio, Pacolod, Legaspi, Iloilo. **Malai:** Shonan. **Djawa:** Soerabaya, Semarang, Djakarta. **Lesser Sunda:** Singaradja, Denpassar. **Borneo:** Banjermasin, Balik-Papan, Pontianak, Tarakang, Samarinda. **Celebes:** Macassar, Menado. **Ceram:** Ambonia. **Timor:** Koepang. **New Britain Island:** Rabaul. **New Guinea:** Manokwari. **Others:** Hongkong. **Temporarily Closed:** Bombay, London, New York.

NIPPON NAVY AWAITING CHANCE TO HIT ENEMY

Combined Fleet Will Start Action When Air Supremacy Gained, Says Takahashi

"The Combined Fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy is silently waiting for a golden opportunity to shatter the enemy," declared Admiral Sankichi Takahashi, retired, former Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet, in an interview with a Mainichi reporter.

Admiral Takahashi said that the Combined Fleet now consisted, as its main strength, of the air force, with the surfacecraft playing only an auxiliary role. When the Japanese Forces obtain air supremacy equal to that held by the enemy, he said, then our battleships, aircraft carriers and cruisers will again be able to resume all out activity.

"With Iwojima taken by the enemy," said the Admiral, "and with the American forces having started the invasion of the main Okinawa Island, we find ourselves confronted by the most critical situation. Some people, I hear, are wondering what has become of the Combined Fleet.

"Naval warfare, however, is different from land operations in that the Navy has no limited theater of operation. It would be advantageous for the Naval Forces to advance to distant enemy areas and it would be equally good for them to fight in home waters. Any place will be a good operational area: the point is to crush the enemy fleets.

"If people entertain misgivings as to the future development of the war situation in connection with the approach of the enemy task force in Japanese waters, they are laboring under a gross illusion. True, the enemy has now advanced to Tokyo Bay, off the Tosa coast and the Southwestern Islands but we only need to deal him a fatal blow on the last line.

"The Combined Fleet is preparing to crush the hostile forces, meanwhile augmenting its strength. Its main strength now consists of the land-based air forces scattered in various areas and carrier-borne aircraft. When Japan attains equal air power and a little more, then our warcraft will resume full scope of activity together with the ramming planes of the Special Attack Corps which are active at present. The golden opportunity will come when we gain air supremacy and to bring this about, it is urgently necessary for the military as well as the people to emulate the spirit which inspires the heroic members of the Special Attack Corps, in producing more aircraft and foodstuffs and in facilitating their transport.

"In the future, we may have to fight the enemy on the soil of Nippon under terrible conditions but I am sure that the enemy will find the Japanese formidable opponents whom they cannot hope to defeat no matter how severely he attacks. Now is the time for all of us, 100,000,000 people of Japan, to emulate the heroes of the Special Attack Corps and lead the country to the consummation of its mission by hurdling the multitudinous difficulties."

AIR FUEL FROM CAMPHOR

Research Bureau Succeeds in Producing Octane for Plane

Fuel for airplanes containing considerable high octane has been perfected from camphor through the joint research of the Central Monopoly Research Bureau of the Finance Ministry and the Fuel Technical Research Bureau of the Army.

Increased production of oil from pine roots and sweet potatoes has been carried on but with this new discovery self-sufficiency toward the completion of war has further been strengthened.

Camphor is usually associated with Taiwan but the camphor tree which gives the camphor flourishes not only in Taiwan alone but thrives along the shores laved by the warm currents in Shikoku, Kyushu, Kinki and various localities of Kanto.

However, camphor in Japan has principally been directed toward the celluloid industry and so to some "Japanese camphor" may sound strange but in actuality, from the point of quantity more is produced here than in Taiwan.

As is well known, camphor in liquid form makes an explosive called paracymen. Now a fuel, from a form of this same paracymen can be produced by crushing the camphor tree and boiling it in vats. Just before the camphor solidifies it separates into small particles and camphor oil. By additional processing of the camphor a fuel oil is produced.

Naval Officer Dies

Surgeon Rear Admiral Saburo Murata was killed in action, it was announced by the Maizuru Naval Station on Thursday.

Nippon Torpedo Planes Blast U.S. Warcraft Around Okinawa in Smashing Night Attack

By K. KOFUDERA
Of the Military Press Corps

UNDISCLOSED NAVAL AIR BASE.—Returning from a night attack against enemy warcraft in the waters around the main Okinawa island conducted without even a single escort plane, Lieutenant Tetsuro Nagata, Tenzan torpedo plane airman, described his thrilling flight on returning to the base.

By the time Lieutenant Nagata had reached the vicinity of the main Okinawa island the air was filled with intense antiaircraft fire, shot up from 10-odd cruisers and destroyers which were convoying a force of transports. The red tracers showed the Japanese airman the position of the enemy. Circling widely once over the enemy, Lieutenant Nagata power-dived toward a transport which loomed large hard ahead. Good, this will be easy, thought the Lieutenant.

At the precise moment the Lieutenant released his torpedo, which shot through the water leaving a white wake clearly behind and tore into the stern of the large enemy transport. Even battleships and carriers cannot withstand these torpedoes. Hit by this torpedo, instantaneous sinking was certain.

The action lasted only about a minute. The Japanese airman hurtled his plane through the enemy curtain of fire and zoomed upward out of harm. The huge column of flame caused by the torpedo sent the enemy fighters into hysterical action. They searched for the Lieutenant's plane with radio locators and roared toward it.

Peering through the windshield, the Lieutenant saw the enemy fighters closing in under him toward the left, with their white markings clearly visible in the night. A fierce dogfight ensued. One enemy fighter fell victim to the Japanese flier. However, something had gone wrong with the Lieutenant's own left wing and he was barely able to fly out of danger and reach home.

Another Japanese airman, Second Sublieutenant Akira Inouye, who joined the Naval air arm from college, also took part in the night attack. When he reached the region of action, he saw four enemy battleships bombarding the coast. Below him enemy cruisers and destroyers were zigzagging at 20 knots. A large vessel, which he could not say was a transport or a cruiser, was listing, obviously hit by a Japanese torpedo.

Airman Inouye gunned his plane toward a battleship, but could not put the sights on it because of bad visibility and the obstructing battle going on. Calming himself, he tried again, and then again. On the third try, he attacked a cruiser. He let his torpedo go at super low level, with the plane skimming the waves below. The big black form of a battleship suddenly loomed before him. Second Sublieutenant Inouye jerked back the stick and barely avoided collision. Simultaneously, a jolting explosion rent the air and from his earphone came an excited voice announcing, "A hit! Instantaneous sinking!"

When Superior Flight Petty Officer Chiaki Takarada came over the combat zone, an enemy night fighter tore toward him. The Japanese airman eluded the enemy and hurtled his plane through the air in search of a likely enemy target. The place was swarming with enemy vessels. Not to be too choosy the airman put his sights on a large enemy vessel and tore toward it, skimming the waves. As if in fear of letting the Japanese know its position no defense fire was shot from the enemy ship. "Wonderful!" thought the Japanese torpedo airman as he released his load of death.

A vast pillar of water suddenly shot up, followed by a gushing column of black smoke which blotted out the light of the moon. A hit. The Japanese plane zoomed past the warship. The smoke stack by the bridge was clearly visible.

The Japanese airman circled his plane once to confirm the result of the attack. This time, the enemy gathered his last waning strength and threw a hail of fire at the plane. But this fell off quickly: the cruiser had been sunk. Enjoying the beautiful moon and imagining the rejoicing of the ground crew at the base, the Japanese airman nosed his plane for home.

MALAI'S WAR INDUSTRIES WORKING AT FULL BLAST

Emphasis Laid on Steel Output; Economic Setup Firm Enough To Meet Any Exigency

The new year 1945 finds Malai's wartime strength greatly bolstered with her whole economy, which has been nurtured efficiently for the past three years under military administration, geared completely on a wartime footing, says Domei.

All-out productive activity in Malai is now under way which means that Malai's power to resist enemy threats is increasing by leaps and bounds, while her vital importance as a supply base is growing still further. Various important measures for the economic development of Malai, completed during the last year, have been put into effect. Malai, in conjunction with air defense measures, is now pushing plans for carrying out various plans, including decentralization of industries, distribution of transportation power, adjustment of enterprises, labor mobilization, and expansion of motive power. In addition, improved plans for increased production and distribution of foodstuffs are being propelled.

Thus, a powerful elastic, all-round structure for meeting all emergencies is daily being strengthened. With emphasis of war economy placed on the iron industry, Malai now possesses a prosperous iron manufacturing industry which includes a number of steel mills capable of producing huge quantities of steel annually. While a part of iron manufacturers has been concentrating on steel production, other iron works have been directing efforts toward foundry work. Already supplying Java, Sumatra, and other areas with their iron necessities, Malai's iron industry is expected in future to play a big part in the production of armaments, machinery or rails.

With electric furnaces operating at full blast, it is predicted that production goals for steel products will be easily reached.

Steel Production Emphasized

The special emphasis placed on steel production is expected to lead to the swift upward trend of Malai's industrialization this year. Other industries, meanwhile, have not been neglected. The textile industry has advanced to a point where it now is ready to switch from the old-fashioned hand spinning system to machine-spinning.

The manufacture of automobile tires and tubes is proceeding smoothly, while production increases are being recorded by the manufacturers of engines, cement, and electric bulbs.

In the field of mining, bauxite output is expected to top stipulated production figures. Tin production, which had been hitherto curtailed, is scheduled to be increased to meet present demands. On the other hand, the production of coal is progressing smoothly, with strong indications pointing to self-sufficiency in industrial fuels. Moreover, rare elements are also being turned out in large quantities. Distribution power houses for generation of electricity have increased, while the number of private-owned power plants has also increased.

In the production of foodstuffs, acreage to be cultivated this year is expected to be boosted by several hundred thousand acres, with the day not far off when the cultivated area in Malai will be from six to seven times that which existed prior to the outbreak of the war. Although the purchasing price of rice from farmers has been increased, its selling price has been held down in strict conformance with the administration's low-price policy, which is aimed at stabilizing the livelihood of the masses. Thus, with this increased area under cultivation, coupled with an expected harvest boom, rice stocks are expected to be greatly increased.

To Be Boosted

Moreover, with a regulated priority system for distribution, Malai's self-sufficiency structure is expected to be further boosted. On the other hand, the cultivation of fiber products is being pursued smoothly in various states of Malai and it is expected that the yield of these fibers, although limited in the early part of this year, will be further increased to meet the needs of the local spinning industries.

With such increases realized in fields of industry, mining and agriculture, it has become necessary to increase transportation facilities in consonance with the needs of the war situation. In view of the fact that transportation under wartime conditions becomes a great economic bottleneck, great efforts are being exerted in eliminating all obstacles, at the same time streamlining the old transport system by accelerating the use of motor-driven sailing vessels, ox carts as well as trailers. Distribution of these supplementary transportation facilities is expected to be made so that both land and sea transportation can function as one unified body.

As a solution to the present problem of mobilizing manpower, labor is being quantitatively distributed to permanent priority industries, while allotments of temporary labor service corps are also being made. Furthermore, with the adjustment of industry during the middle part of last year, an added source of manpower has been made available.

Manpower Problem

Moreover, with a great number of persons expected to either transfer or discontinue business this year, the promulgation of a decree restricting distribution of male workers, which took effect on January 1, is expected to further boost the supply of manpower.

For the present, although labor will mostly be allocated to the industrial, mining and agricultural fields, other problems also require immediate attention by the military administration. They consist of firstly, formulation of method by which future labor needs of these three important fields can be adequately met; secondly, thorough control of labor; thirdly, improvement of technique and swifter training of skilled workers.

Thus, Mailai, for the past three years, has been constructing a strong economic structure, capable of meeting all and any exigencies.

ENEMY FAILS TO ACHIEVE AIM IN BURMA, SAYS BOSE

Racing With Time With Monsoon Season Approaching; Confident of Victory

Domei

RANGOON, April 3.—Dealing with the situation in Burma, Subhas Chandra Bose, Head of the Free India Provisional Government, in a statement issued to the press today declared that the enemy forces have been trying to race with time knowing that the monsoon season will bring in innumerable difficulties.

"After the heavy counterattacks began in northern and central Burma, they have now realized the task they have set out to achieve is impossible," he stated. "In sheer desperation, they have now turned to the destruction of civilian life and property in Rangoon and other parts of Burma."

The Netaji said that on one hand the enemy has been dropping leaflets appealing to the population to help them and on the other hand has been mercilessly bombing helpless civilians including women and children.

"Besides this inhuman bombing," he added, "they have not spared public places of worship like pagodas, mosques and temples or hospitals."

He disclosed that the Azad Hind Provisional Government is considering plans for closer cooperation with the Burmese Government in matter of relief to air raid victims. "Though a difficult military situation is being faced in Burma," he said, "which may continue for a month or two, I am fully optimistic about the ultimate issue of the war in Burma."

CASH TRANSFERS EASIER

Withdrawal Procedure Simplified for Evacuees

In view of the increasing number of evacuees from the big cities due to the Government's compulsory evacuation policy, the wartime emergency banking measures adopted by the Government in June last year will be further simplified and applied to ordinary evacuees from April 7, whereas so far they have been applied only to sufferers from enemy air raids.

According to the emergency banking measures, air raid sufferers are able to draw money from the banks and other credit associations in the districts where they have settled, if their deposits have been transferred to such banks and credit associations. However, in consideration of possible communication delays, and also in order to simplify the procedure of providing cash more speedily for the convenience of the evacuees, new measures have been enacted by which the evacuees are able to draw up to ¥200 a day or ¥500 a month immediately upon presentation of their passbooks and seals to the banks and other credit associations in the localities in which they have settled.

Asahi Scribe Killed

Morita Matsuda, staff member of the Asahi Shimbun and of the Military Press Corps, was killed in action in the Manila district on January 23, it was disclosed on Thursday. He was 32 years old. He was sent to the Manila branch last October and was engaged in reporting war news of the Philippine area.

PRESS COMMENTS

Thursday, April 5

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT WAR

YOMIURI-HOCHI—The San Francisco Conference which is scheduled to open on the 25th of this month may be postponed on account of the intensification of the rift between the Anglo-Americans and the Soviets; and even the possibility of the Soviet Union's withdrawal from the conference is being reported.

The Anglo-Americans, in view of the fact that owing to insufficient postwar preparations the establishment of peace following the previous World War was a failure as it deepened the struggle and strife among the Powers, are discussing postwar issues already with the war yet in the midst of its development. It is rather laughable indeed that now the strife and antagonism between the Anglo-Americans and the Soviets have been intensified concerning those very issues.

In the case of the previous World War the Anglo-Americans had two great slogans: internationally, the peoples' self-determination, and domestically, democracy. In the case of the current war those slogans have changed: internationally, they speak of guaranteeing peace and security, and domestically of guaranteeing social security, that is to say, to secure the livelihood of the people (as, for instance, the Beveridge Plan). Needless to say, the San Francisco Conference is the first formal conference at which they want to establish the structure for realizing those international ideals, that is to say, their international ambitions.

It cannot be denied that the structure, which is a new League of Nations, presents the following three new aspects in comparison with the old League of Nations: that it will use armed power against aggressors; that the Great Powers' right of leadership is being acknowledged, and that two Great Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are joining it.

The old League of Nations had been hindered in its action by a system of simple majority vote, regardless of the voting countries being large or small. Instead of this, a system has been evolved in which the Great Powers who actually hold power may decide and act arbitrarily and thus employ their actual force swiftly. It must therefore not be overlooked that, whereas the old League was an organization which did neither good nor harm, the new structure will be able to wield strong power, for good or for bad. In other words, it has been so devised that America and Britain may most conveniently enforce their imperialistic ambitions.

However, the hopes of America and Britain did not work out quite as well as they had thought in the beginning. In the first place, the idea to push through the decision on such an important issue as the employment of armed force also simply by a majority vote of the big Powers was frustrated by Soviet opposition. Instead, it was decided at the Yalta Conference that in the employment of armed force, agreement of opinion among the five permanent council seat countries was required, that is to say, America, Britain, the Soviet Union, China and France.

Then, what is to be done in case no such agreement can be obtained? In this point, already today the new structure reveals the same sort of shortcoming and limitation as that which impeded action by the old League of Nations. Judging from the fact that the Soviet Union is stressing this point, the Soviet Union's degree of enthusiasm for the new structure may be imagined. The fact that America and Britain on one hand, and the Soviet Union on the other, who have different national systems, are finding themselves in the same bed, so to speak, will greatly determine the course of action of the new structure.

But the problem is not confined to this alone. By acknowledging the right of leadership of the Great Powers, the new structure is supposed to be governed by an extremely small number of large countries, in particular the United States and the Soviet Union. In that case there is but very scant possibility for the will of the majority to be organized in harmony and union as an independent existence. Therefore, the movements of the new structure will be determined directly by the interests of the Great Powers. The establishment of the new structure thus means the establishment of an arena for the Great Powers to compete in their interests. It is therefore not without reason that, considering things with a long-range view, it is judged to be a "preparation for the next war."

M26 FLARE BOMBS USED

Details of 'Umbrella' Flares Used By B-29's Bared

The enemy air force used the M26 type of flare bombs when it raided the western sector of Tokyo before daybreak on Monday. These bombs, 20 kilograms in weight, are attached to parachutes.

As soon as the flare bomb is released from the plane an auxiliary parachute opens, and this sets in action the mechanism which opens another larger one. To that is attached a reflector with some 80 centimeter-long ribs which gives the arrangement an appearance like an umbrella. At the end of the rods there is attached a bomb tube containing flare powder mixed with sodium nitrate. The flare bomb looks like a large oil or electric lamp hanging from a parachute.

When it is dropped, it ignites at an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 meters, illuminating a wide area for about seven to eight minutes. Some flare bombs hit the ground while burning, causing fires to start.

Preparatory Move on Japan

Domei

LISBON, April 4.—"The occupation of the main island of the Okinawa group may be regarded as preparatory to large scale operations against Japan Proper and to the opening up of attack routes on the China coast," declared a United States naval authority relative to the announcements made on the Okinawa operations according to a Reuter dispatch from Washington. He further said that one third of the Okirawa Islands would become valuable army and naval bases while good railways and roads traverse the island and along the western coast.

IRAPA MEMBERS HOLD MEET

Resignation of Officials to Join New Political Party Called Off

With the organization of the Dai Nippon Political Association, administrative officials of the various ministries who are members of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association met on March 31.

It was decided that the members of the Dai Nippon Political Association should first resign from the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association but after the meeting between Prime Minister General Kuniaki Koiso and General Jiro Minami, President of the Dai Nippon Political Association, on the same afternoon, the consensus of opinion was that resignation at this time was deemed unnecessary. This decision was made known to the members by Sotaro Ishiwata, Chief Cabinet Secretary. An emergency meeting was called of all the administrative officials at which it was decided they should remain in office.

Annamese Cooperate As Suppressive Rule Of French Abolished

H. HOGYOKU
Of the Military Press Corps

HANOI, April 4.—Cooperation with Japan of the native inhabitants of Indo-China is increasing rapidly in public and private circles. When the Japanese troops marched into a certain district, all the Annamese troops came forward to cooperate. In Laokai and elsewhere, Annamese peace preservation troops, without changing their organization, have been maintaining order perfectly. In the administrative phase, the French Government General's offices in various cities have been abolished and replaced by provincial governments under the jurisdiction of governors appointed by the King of Annam. The traditional French policy of suppressing the native inhabitants has been laid aside. Railway traffic has been resumed in various districts. Throughout Annam peace and order is well maintained.

TO BUILD DEFENSE POSTS

IRAMC Forming Detachments in Tokyo and Other Prefectures

The Imperial Rule Assistance Manhood Corps has decided to form detachments with its members in Tokyo Metropolis and eight other neighboring prefectures to aid the Army in building defense positions for the period of 16 days from April 10.

Order for this program has been issued by Taketora Ogata, President of the Board of Information and concurrently President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Manhood Corps, to the authorities concerned of Tokyo Metropolis, Yamanashi, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Gumma, Tochigi, Ibaraki and Nagano prefectures. Every detachment will be formed by more than 1,000 men.

Headquarters of these corps will be established in the Central Headquarters of the Manhood Corps and Mr. Ogata will be Commander-in-Chief. More than two companies will be organized in every prefecture and these companies will be divided into sections and squads. The members of the corps will be so trained as they will be qualified to form the nucleus of the National Volunteer Force.

U.S. War Costs Soar

Domei

LISBON, April 4.—America's war costs jumped up to $8,246,000,000 in March, the daily average being $266,000,000, according to the U.S. Department of the Treasury today, says a Washington dispatch. The figure set a new record since May, last year, during which month the military expenditure totaled $7,879,000,000, it was said.

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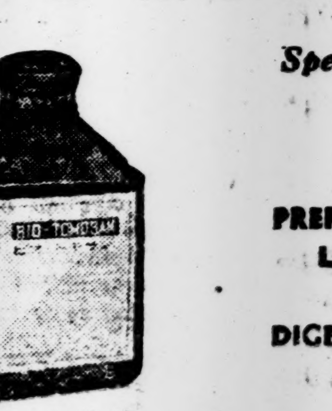

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TOKYO, FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1945

The Foreshadowed Failure

British Foreign Office authorities are quoted as saying that it would be impossible for both Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden to attend the San Francisco Conference on International Organization throughout the duration of its sessions. Taking up this cue, various British papers, including the Yorkshire Post owned by the relatives of Anthony Eden and generally reputed to be his mouthpiece, have begun to advocate the postponement of the San Francisco Conference until a more propitious time.

The only meaning to be derived from these developments is that Britain has despaired of the success of the Conference and is seeking for some way to withdraw from a troublesome business which threatens to turn into a complete fiasco. The lukewarm attitude of the Soviet Union toward the whole idea of a world organization has long been known; but for Britain, one of the chief sponsors of the proposed scheme, to show such signs of retreat shows how close to complete collapse the much publicized plan has already come. Almost three weeks before the scheduled opening of the Conference, two of the three major sponsors are showing signs of admitting failure. They are preparing to scuttle the ship even before it has been launched.

The immediate cause for Britain's sudden loss of enthusiasm for the San Francisco Conference is the Soviet Union's insistent demand that an invitation to the Conference be extended to the Soviet-sponsored Provisional Government at Warsaw. Britain and the United States cannot but refuse, for, committed as they still are to the rival exiled Polish regime in London, the utmost they can concede is to invite the projected Polish "Government of National Unity" if its establishment should be completed before the date of the Conference. Even this is humiliating enough, for the supposed compromise at the Crimea Conference by which the formation of the Polish "Government of National Unity" was agreed upon was clearly a Soviet victory over Britain and the United States. To concede anything more would be a shattering loss of prestige and power which the Anglo-Saxon Powers could not possibly bear. But the Soviet Union, while virtually blocking the formation of the "Government of National Unity," is even hinting at the threat of withdrawing from the San Francisco Conference altogether unless its demand is met. No wonder Britain should prefer that the Conference be quietly stillborn than to see it blown up through collision over the forever insoluble Polish question.

That the Soviet Union would even dare to wreck the San Francisco Conference, the British have no doubt. There can be no illusions about the Soviet attitude toward the scheme of world organization supported by the United States and Britain. From the very beginning when the matter was first proposed at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, the Soviet Union [illegible] deep distrust. Every move it has made in connection with the scheme has been designed to restrict and modify the plans of the Anglo-American originators so as to safeguard and to advance Soviet interests. The Soviet Union's adamantine stand on the voting procedure in the Security Council of the proposed world organization, the appointment of Ambassador Andrei Gromyko as delegate to the San Francisco Conference instead of Foreign Commissar Molotov despite the appointment of their foreign ministers by practically all the other participating countries, the demand for separate votes in the assembly for the Ukrainian Soviet Republic and the White Russian Soviet Republic, as well as the demand for the invitation of the Polish regime at Warsaw, represent this Soviet tug against the Anglo-American steering of the world organization preparations.

With utter realism, the Soviet leaders apparently feel that if the proposed organization is to be made into what will be in practice a workable alliance among the Big Three in which the Soviet Union will have as much weight and voice as the Anglo-American Powers, the Soviet Union will participate; but if the United States and Britain are going to strive for Anglo-Saxon world hegemony by herding their satellites behind them in the name of a spurious "world peace", then the Soviet Union will obstruct such a plan. The Soviet moves are being made to ensure that Soviet interests will not be overwhelmed by Anglo-American machinations, and the Soviet moves are being made also to enable the wrecking of the Anglo-American schemes if their intent should prove to be not bona fide.

Of course it happens, however, that the Anglo-Americans are not acting in good faith. Their purpose in originating the idea of a world organization was to establish a world system in which they could mobilize overwhelming military force to impose their will upon the rest of the world. Particularly does the United States in advocating an international "peace" machinery envisage a veritable Pax Americana.

It is inevitable under the circumstances that the Soviet Union will either obstruct the San Francisco Conference or at least politely snub it with the coolest of perfunctory cooperation. The minor nations which the United States will try to whip into line will protest and struggle, but their efforts will be in vain; they will be forced to submit to superior American might abetted by British connivance. But with the Soviet Union it will be another story.

For the Soviet Union is sardonically getting ready, if necessary, to scuttle the unwieldy ship which the Anglo-Saxon Powers have laboriously rivetted together for the launching. And sensing the sinking which is impending, Britain is now seeking a graceful way of escape. The United States alone, impelled by insatiable lust, is hectically but grimly clutching at the seams trying to hold her ambitious contraption from falling apart. But with the Soviet Union thus openly cynical if not actually antagonistic, with Britain full of misgivings, and with the minor countries already squawking with fearful protests, it is a foregone conclusion that the United States will have more than her share of troubles in trying to launch her international ship of super-state at San Francisco.

A Year Ago Today

April 6, 1944

The British Government suspended the export of coal to neutral countries as a result of the coal strike, according to a London dispatch.

* * *

American bomber formations which entered the Styria area in Austria were so surprised by the sudden concentric attack made by the German fighters that the enemy bombers were unable to carry out their attack. Reports reaching here claim that the American bombers were forced to jettison their bombs. After the surprise mass attack made by the Reich fighters, the enemy raiders immediately fled in spite of the fact that they were escorted by a considerable number of long range fighters. It was disclosed that a number of four-engined planes were lost by the enemy.

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The Burmese Government announced the basic principle for establishing the new educational system of Burma, according to the basic national policy already adopted. The Government aims to reject the British system and establish a new structure for educating the Burmese youths who will shoulder the duty of administering and developing Burma in the future.

* * *

A violent attack on President Roosevelt and his advisers was made by Wendell Willkie in his speech in Omaha, Nebraska, says a New York dispatch.

ECONOMY IN LIBERATED EUROPE

American Financial Hold Rapidly Being Extended

By BUNZO KUBO
Director of Foreign Department
Of Finance Ministry

III

Without a doubt, the freezing of French assets amounting to 1,594,000,000 Francs by America and other countries contributed greatly toward Uncle Sam's strong financial influence upon France, but recent frequent American loans to the occupied areas helped, more than anything else, to advance American financial interests into occupied territory. Such a strong financial advance on the part of America with no regard for Britain's waning foreign investment power due to the latter's all-out effort in raising the current war expenditures, seems to be causing grave concern to British financiers. All these loans are supposed to be used for the purchase of materials and supplies, but on account of the lack of transportation power they do not seem to relieve the economic difficulties faced by the occupied nations to a very great degree.

France: Heretofore the De Gaullist regime sent many economic missions to America and conferred with American industrialists on many pertinent issues. Recently it has succeeded in procuring a loan of $200,000,000, half of which was to be used for the purchase of locomotives and the other half for other railway equipment. At the same time a movement is under way to release French assets which are now frozen in America. France also succeeded in getting a loan of 230,000,000 Pesetas from the Spanish Government to purchase food supplies, and further it is assumed that she will succeed in procuring an additional loan of 6,000,000 Pounds from the Swedish Government. It is reported that she is negotiating for a loan from the United States Government for the purchase of cotton and also a loan from Britain to purchase wool.

Holland: Althought the Dutch Government has not yet returned to its home country its efforts along the financial adjustment line has been very active. It has already succeeded in concluding a three-year contract with a U.S. banking syndicate for a loan of $100,000,000 at an annual interest of 1.5 per cent which is to be used for purchasing reconstruction supplies offering as security its frozen assets held by the United States. In addition it is negotiating with the Swedish Government for a loan of 200,000,000 Krowns for purchasing reconstruction machinery and lumber and in addition it is asserted that a loan contract has been concluded with the Swedish banks for a sum of 15,000,000 Swiss Francs.

Condition in Belgium

Belgium: It is reported that Belgium too, like the Netherlands, succeeded in entering into a loan agreement with the United States. Against this financial advance of Uncle Sam into Europe, Britain is trying to complete and maintain her economic foothold on the Western European Continent through the formation of "Western European Currency Bloc." By concluding with Belgium the British-Belgian Currency Agreement she has started her sterling invasion of the European Continent.

The British-Belgian Currency Agreement was concluded on October 5 of last year at London, the salient features of which are: First, it indicated the nature of Britain's future financial tactics; second, serious consideration was given to the blocked Belgian Pounds in London; and third, it ignored the fundamental principle of the agreement which was formulated and adopted at the recent Bretton Woods Monetary Conference.

According to this Agreement, the official exchange rate between the British Pound and the Belgian Franc was fixed at £1.=176.625 Belgian Francs and it was stipulated that this rate was not to be altered without the mutual consent of both parties. In figuring out the international trade balance of the two countries, the limit was specified as £5,000,000 and should the trade balance exceed this amount, the deficit was to be paid in gold. It is further specified that the Pound assets earned by the populace on Belgium can be used freely within the sterling bloc, on the surface, this agreement does not oppose the plan adopted at the Bretton Woods conference, for it is so specified that if within three years one of the contracting parties should desire to join the universal international currency pact the contents of this agreement may be amended so as to meet the requirements.

It is also reported that recently a similar currency pact has been concluded between Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg, but this pact, too, has been concluded under the close supervision and watchful eye of Britain.

It is clear that Britain is also trying to bring Norway and Denmark under these agreements. Thus John Bull's plan of forming the "Western European Bloc," is designed to oppose Uncle Sam's aspirations for world economic domination.

(End)

CONSEQUENCES OF JAPANESE OPERATIONS IN CHINA

Imperial Forces Determined Not to Lay Down Arms Till Anglo-American Imperialism Is Crushed

By TOSHIO UYEDA
President of Institute for Oriental Culture

The Japanese armed forces are fighting one of the most intensive battles of the Greater East Asia War in the Pacific region. In spite of this Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu declared before the Imperial Diet on January 23, this year, that the "Greater East Asia War begins and ends with the Chinese question." For this reason the significance of the fighting on the Chinese mainland must not be overlooked though it is going on in a less spectacular fashion. It is well known that the United States considers a landing on the China coast as one of the objectives of the current invasion of the Philippines and thereby is attaching extreme importance to the Chinese mainland in relation to the final outcome of the war. As the battle for the Philippines approaches a climax, it is essential that we turn our glances to the China continent and reanalyze its full bearing on the total picture of the titanic struggle.

The most noteworthy fact about the China campaign in the past year is the epoch-making success of our military strategy. It began last April as a three-pronged offensive in North, Central and South China. It embraced the Honan, Hunan and the Kweilin-Liuchow campaigns and culminated in the opening of an uninterrupted overland route from Peking to Shonan. This indeed, was the composite achievement of the three successive campaigns.

The Honan campaign, which began on April 17, last year, with the crossing of the Yellow and the New Yellow rivers, achieved the historic reopening of the Peking-Hankow railway line. And with the subsequent occupation of Loyang on May 25, the dream of Chiang Kai-shek to retake North China was completely smashed and the entire Honan campaign was brought to a glorious finish. On May 27, the Hunan campaign was launched from both banks of Lake Tungting. This campaign was also a signal success. One unit in that drive captured Changsha and Liling before rolling on southward, another plunged over the Hunan border and took Pinghsiang and a third swept everything before it in the march southward along the Canton-Hankow railway line. Due to the combined efforts of these units the advance airfield of the China-based United States airforce at Hengyang fell into our hands on June 26.

Junction Effected

On the following day, another unit of our South China Expeditionary Forces struck out from the southern end of the Canton-Hankow rail route. Then from about the middle of January, this year, a joint large-scale operation was inaugurated by our forces, in South and Central China, from south and north along the same railway line and a junction was achieved midway between Yaochang and Shaochow, bringing the entire communication system into our control. Meanwhile, another column of our forces stormed and seized Suichuan airfield on January 28.

It is recalled that Hunan is next to Szechuan Province, the greatest rice producing center under the Chungking regime. As it yields almost half the total food supply for the Chungking-controlled areas it was defensively well fortified by Chiang Kai-shek. The repercussion which the success of the Hunan campaign caused within the enemy camp can fully be appreciated when it is also considered that Hengyang, which formed the pivotal base of the American air force in China, is roughly equidistant from northern Kyushu as Tokyo is from Saipan. And of course, the value of the Canton-Hankow railway line from a political, economic, or strategic standpoint needs no further elaboration. The true strategic value of this transit system must not be underrated especially at a time when the Japanese-American war has virtually reached its peak. In other words, our control of the entire line has made all airfields east of it completely useless to the enemy while the use of those to the west are seriously being restricted. It has also crushed the attempt of an American landing on China's west coast and has even thrown a monkey wrench into the American plans of attacking the Japanese mainland with China as a base of operations.

After the fall of Hengyang, both the Chungking regime and the United States air force shifted their headquarters to Kweilin and Liuchow where they continued to operate against the Japanese. As a result, we immediately followed the Hunan campaign with what is known as the Kweilin operations about the middle of last September. The objective of that campaign was speedily attained with the capture of both Kweilin and Liuchow on November 10.

Asia Highway Looms

When the Japanese Forces in French Indo-China occupied Nanning on December 24, for the second time, a Greater East Asia highway traversing Fusan, Keijo, Mukden, Peking, Hankow, Changsha, Kweilin, Hanoi, Saigon, Bangkok and Shonan became a reality. Thanks to the sacrificial and successful efforts of our forces the operation of a Co-Prosperity Express over an eleven thousand kilometer railway line from Tokyo to Shonan is now in the realm of actuality.

Of course, the successive Chungking defeats in the Honan, Hunan and Kweilin-Liuchow campaigns have served to show the glaring defects and weaknesses in its fighting services. Needless to say the crisis which developed through these defeats has also upset the United States to a great degree. And the attitude of the United States toward Chungking took a sudden turn since the capitulation of Kweilin and Liuchow. It resulted in a policy of interference and meddling in the internal affairs of Chungking. Having doubts about the capabilities of the Chungking army, the United States drew her own conclusions that the China operation could only be waged by placing all of Chiang Kai-shek's forces under America's unified command. And steps were taken to Americanize the Chungking military.

The outcome of that plan was General Joseph Stilwell's recent demand that he be made the supreme commander of the combined Chungking and American forces in China and that he be given the final say in all military matters over the highest Chungking officers. However, Chiang Kai-shek could not tolerate such a slur on his prestige and finally demanded that General Stilwell be ousted from his post. Although the United States complied with this request she did not relax her ambition to secure a firm political and military hold of Chungking. In fact, the Chungking cabinet change of last November 20, can be regarded as a compensation for the recall of General Stilwell.

By that administrative change War Minister General Ho Ying-chin, Finance Minister H. H. Kung, and Education Minister Chen Li-fu were removed from their posts just as the Americans wanted it. General Chen Cheng, Yu Hung-hun and Chu Chia-hua who succeeded to the vacated cabinet seats are not exactly pro-American personalities, but the shuffle nevertheless cannot be denied to be an outcome of clearcut intervention by the United States. In fact, we might interpret it as a forerunner of even increased interference in the future, and a painful blow on the prestige of the Chungking regime.

U.S. Seeks Rapprochement

In her planned assault against the Japanese mainland, one of America's prime desires is a real Chungking-Yenan rapprochement. . . putting a definite end to their recurrent feuds. By this the United States hopes to establish a unified front against Japan and use the Yenan regime as a handy tool to keep Chungking answerable to her beck and call. This is the nature of the work which Ambassador Patrick Hurley and Donald Nelson, the American ex-Chief of War Production Board have been carrying on in China. Meanwhile, Yenan is taking advantage of its increasing popularity among the masses to put forth its claim for an honorable place in the Chungking administrative structure although it is fundamentally at odds with the Kuomintang. The Yenan regime is basing its demands in the name of a unified front and the need of a more democratic form of government under Chungking.

The declaration of Chungking's Publicity Minister Wang Shih-chieh on December 7, last year, that "As the result of a satisfactory agreement between the Chungking government and Yenan the coordination of both armies has been effected and the Chungking troops in the Northwest have been withdrawn to fight against the Japanese troops in the Kweichow sector," cannot be regarded as mere propaganda but also as an indication of at least partial coordination of the armies of the two Chinese factions. It is interesting to note here also that the Chinese Communists have recognized the participation of America in Chinese affairs as a matter of expediency to expedite the attainment of their political objective and not as an act of surrender to capitalism.

As the Japanese operations are pushed deeper into China's interior they will undoubtedly aggravate the frictions and dissensions latent among Chungking, Yenan and the United States. Not only that, Chungking will most likely be forced to bow to an American-Yenan ultimatum for a more democratic governmental structure by the joint pressure of Japanese attacks, Yenan and the United States.

THREE FACTORS FOR VICTORY

Japan Is Confident of Emerging Triumphant

By G. MASUI

I wish to point out in this article the three factors which are bound to give Japan final victory despite the vicissitudes of the war situation. These are: her moral conviction in the righteousness of her cause; her national unity supported by the one billion peoples of East Asia, particularly the peoples of Manchoukuo and China under the Nanking Government, and Japan's adequate supplies of food and war materials.

History testifies to the potentiality of moral conviction in all wars. It is because of this that those who defend their own nations are usually stronger than their invaders in the long run. Rome succeeded in warding off Hannibal at her very doorsteps; the Greeks successfully met the Persian invaders, who like the Americans, depended almost entirely on their vast material supplies; and the thirteen American Colonies secured their independence against the tyranny of their erstwhile mother country. True, mere aggression and power are overwhelming in some wars and it is because of this fact that imperialistic countries made their territorial expansion. Such examples are furnished by America's victory over Spain in modern times and by the conquest of small nations by Rome and the Mongolian empires in ancient times. But when Greek meets Greek, then comes not only the tug of war but victory for the one who has a greater moral conviction over the other.

Moral Conviction

In the current War of Greater East Asia, Japan has absolute moral conviction in the righteousness of her cause. She sincerely realizes that the war is one of self-defense for her. This realization is derived from the fact that she is convinced that the enemy has been denying her right of self-existence. Any nation has the right of its national expansion through peaceful means and Japan since the middle of the 19th century has been making such an expansion, particularly in her population, economic activities and standard of living and culture. In the eighties and nineties, Japan sent immigrants to the United States and Hawaii because of her over-population but shortly after the opening of the present century the United States prohibited Japanese immigration. While thus closing the doors of opportunity to the surplus population of Japan, America tried not only to obstruct Japan's continental peaceful penetration, but even to make her own expansion in the same Asiatic Continent. This is the cause of the War of Greater East Asia. The United States should have expected a war with Japan when the former carried out her selfish policy of shutting her own door to Japan and penetrating into Japan's front yard. Japan's moral conviction, then, is based on her right for self-preservation. The United States would have such a moral conviction, had we shut our own doors of opportunity to the Americans and at the same time we made a military or economic penetration into Mexico or other parts of the American Continent.

Japan's stand against the imperialistic policy of the United States is equally shared by all the other nations of Greater East Asia, and it is precisely because of this undeniable fact that the current war is justly described as a war for the emancipation of all the peoples of the region. The fact should be noted that Japan did not force these East Asiatic peoples to fight against the United States. The aggressive policy and acts of the United States drove Japan to rise against such injustice, and our acts of self-defense automatically liberated the status of the East Asiatic peoples with the exception of those Chinese who are under the rule of Chungking, whose interests as represented by her self-seeking leaders have so far coincided with those of the United States.

Bound by Same Fate

Thus, our moral conviction in the justice of our defensive war is further strengthened by our realization that our determined stand is inseparably bound up with the fate of the other Asiatic peoples who must fall if Japan falls but who will be completely liberated if Japan should win in the present war. Destiny has made Japan the champion of liberty for all the nations of East Asia, and she is firmly determined to act in accordance with the lofty mission which has been thus thrust upon her shoulders. This has made our nation determined to be a worthy guardian for these Asiatic brethren for whom Japan has proved their saviour, not only by demonstrating her formidable prowess but by her unselfish program of peaceful construction, as revealed by the Joint Declaration of November, 1943. Such then is the very nature of the ethical claim of Japan in the present war. History tells us that no nation with such a lofty national stand and such unselfish policies and deeds can bow its head before her enemy, however formidable the latter may be in war. It is because of this unshakable moral conviction on the part of the Japanese people that they can remain absolutely undisturbed when the enemy's fleet is lurking around the shores of their mainland.

Moreover we have been scrupulously confining our war aims to the liberation of East Asia from the unreasonable aggression of the Anglo-Saxon nations and to the ultimate object of contributing to the advancement of culture particularly in our own region and universally in the world. We feel absolutely assured that before this superior moral aim of our nation, the enemy will certainly recognize his defeat and admit our ethical triumph in the end. The masses in America and Britain will some day realize their moral degradation in conducting the present war and revolt against their authorities. Such a time will come when their war casualties will attain a certain height and their crushing financial burden will become bearable. For, such is the verdict of human history and the rationality of the human race.

Let us now turn to Japan's second factor of ultimate victory in the current world conflict, namely, her indivisible national unity with the support of the billion peoples of East Asia centering around Manchoukuo and China under the Nanking Government. No nation in the history of mankind has enjoyed such perfect national unity as did Japan during her 2,600 years of her racial existence. In other countries, the crown is the symbol of national life. In the case of Britain, the crown is regarded as the symbol of imperial connection. Carlyle's hero in Sartor Resartus only laughed once in his life—at the idea of men's conscious loyalty to a "Cast metal King." But in Japan the Emperor is not only the incarnation of national unity but also the Imperial Sire for all the people of the nation who are His "children," our Empire being one big family. So fundamental and integral is the position of our Sovereign that no national existence without our Sovereign is conceivable.

Material Phase

Lastly, we shall take up the material phase of our national existence and of our war potential. The first and all-important fact about our nation is that we are still predominantly an agricultural country whose population in its major portion is composed of farming households which must be sharply distinguished from farmers or farm hands, for whereas farmers or farm hands may be affected easily by the process of industrialization, the existence of farming households such as exist in this country remains almost intact by industrialization. Prior to the war, Japan's population was composed of farmers and their families to the extent of 60 per cent which is about twice the percentage of the farming population of the United States about ten years ago. The war has drained the farming population in both Japan and the United States similarly by their war and industrial mobilization. But in our case the number of farming households remains the same. Generally speaking, our farming is capable of being conducted by women labor and aged and young persons. It is because of this fact that our agricultural production has remained essentially the same under the present war exigency.

That a nation's power of food supply determines the fate of that nation in war goes without saying. We saw such an example in the case of Germany in the first World War and another example in the case of Italy in the current war. In the case of Japan, there is absolutely no anxiety of food shortage of any serious nature because our population is made up of producers of food provisions. Japan Proper needs 14,400,000 kilolitre of rice for 80 million people, but we have been able to produce on the average of about 11,340,000 kilolitres in recent years. This shortage has been made by the increased production of wheat which is estimated at 4,500,000 kilolitres for 1944-5, of sweet potatoes estimated at 15,700,000 kilograms and of potatoes estimated at 700,000 kilograms. This means that Japan enjoys self-sufficiency in foodstuffs. Moreover, Manchoukuo has been supplying the people of Japan Proper with an increasing amount of foodstuffs such as kaoliang and soya beans since the outbreak of the war.

Japan also has succeeded in maintaining the supply of essential war materials by her consolidated economic production plans of the Japan-Manchoukuo-China bloc. She is capable of getting the supply of such materials as light metals, fuel, iron and steel and chemicals so that she can wage the war for an indefinite period of time, in view of the vast supply area on the Asiatic Continent. When a nation enjoys such factors of war prosecution as I have enumerated, that nation can truly be called invincible in the true meaning of the word.

CHAOS IN GREECE

British Intervention Aggravated Complicated Situation

II

Premier Papandrou attempted to stave off the crisis by crushing the Communist party and its armed forces with the help of the British army. Failing in this and with conditions only growing steadily worse, the premier of the puppet regime finally tendered his resignation to King George II of Greece on December 5. Following the collapse of the Papandrou government, it was believed that a coalition cabinet would be formed under the leadership of Themistocles Sofoulis, leader of the Liberal party, Sophocles Venizelos, former Greek Premier and leader of the Progressive party and the EAM. However, Lieutenant General Ronald Scobie, Supreme Commander of the British Forces in Greece, frankly let it be known that he was supporting the Papandrou regime and also indicated that a Communist government would be prevented even by the use of British armed force.

This was the first step in the British armed intervention in the Greek civil war. And fighting finally broke out in earnest between the British troops cooperating with the Greek gendarmes and the ELAS forces in all parts of Athens. Thereafter the flame of civil strife spread over the entire Greek nation which gave British troops the opportunity to conduct a wholesale slaughter of the Greek masses with tanks, artilleries and even the British air force.

Of course, this British act was completely against the tenets of the Atlantic Charter, and it drew a storm of criticism from the anti-Axis camp. Great consternation was especially rife in the United States, but the move was even a target of severe verbal attacks by the British Labor Party in the House of Commons. The British complaint welled forth not only from left wingers but the rare fact is that it even came from the conservative London Times.

Had to Alter Tactics

The ever rising crescendo of opposition and indignation both at home and abroad at length forced Churchill to alter his tactics. The British Prime Minister, accompanied by Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of the anti-Axis forces in the Mediterranean, made a hasty journey to Greece during the Christmas holidays in order to find a way out of the chaos in Greece. From December 28, a conference of representatives of various Greek factions was held at the British army headquarters in Greece. Churchill addressed the round-table conference in which he stressed three major points. First, the present conference was made possible through a discussion and agreement with Premier Papandrou and it also has the support of the Russian Premier Josef Stalin and the American President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Second, the British Government has no intention of meddling with the procedure of the parley and leaves it to the people of Greece whether they are to have a monarchial or republican form of government. With this in mind the chairmanship of the conference is being entrusted to Archbishop Damaskinos. Britain seeks no material gains in mediating a peace between the various Greek factions. Her only desire and hope is that Greece will be able to regain an honorable position within the "Allied" camp. Third, all Greek parties must accept the terms of armistice of Lieutenant General Scobie as the first step toward the holding of a free election, which answers the general will of the people of Greece, to establish a government of firm standing.

On the second day of the parley, a regency government was agreed upon by all those participating. And as a result of the pressure from Prime Minister Churchill, King George II was forced to announce on December 30 that Archbishop Damaskinos had been appointed regent for the duration of the emergency.

Meanwhile, the battle between the ELAS resistance forces and the British troops virtually ceased as the left wing faction gradually learned the costliness and uselessness of opposing a modernly equipped British army and sued for peace. On January 11, the representatives of both forces met at the headquarters of the British army and signed an armistice.

This brought a halt to the so-called Greek civil war of more than a month and a half standing. Since General Nicholas Plastinas, the new Greek Premier, is known to be anti-British, it is doubtful whether the situation can remain stable for any length of time. Another factor to remember is the prevalence of Soviet influence behind the EAM.

Furthermore, indications are that the recent disorder in Greece has sown the seeds of increased anti-British feelings in the future on one hand and crowned the Communist party with enhanced prestige on the other. All these reasons combined make it doubly certain that Britain's exclusive control of the Mediterranean will become exceedingly precarious with the passing of time.

(End)